

F2
cont vary from 21 to 31 days. Viewed otherwise, a composition may comprise of an amount of DRSP corresponding to a daily dose ranging from 0.25 to 10, such as about 0.25 to 8, 0.25 to 6, 0.25 to 5, 0.5 to 4.5, 1 to 4, and 1.5 to 3.5 mg.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 77, 81-83, 85-89, 97, 120-121 and 123-133 and 135-136 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amend claims 90, 92-95 and 99 to read as follows (a marked up version of the amended claims is in an appendix attached hereto):

F3
90. (Twice Amended) A method of treating a disease, disorder or symptom associated with deficient endogenous levels of estrogen in women comprising orally administering, for at least one cycle of from 21 to 31 days, to a woman having a deficient endogenous level of estrogen;
an estrogen in a sufficient amount to alleviate said disease, disorder or symptom,
and micronized drospirenone in a sufficient amount to protect the endometrium from adverse effects of estrogen.

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92. (Amended) A method according to claim 90, wherein the disease, disorder or symptom is selected from the group consisting of hot flushes, sweating attacks, palpitations, sleep disorders, mood changes, nervousness, anxiety, poor memory, loss of confidence, loss of libido, poor concentration, diminished energy, diminished drive, irritability, urogenital atrophy, atrophy of the breasts, cardiovascular disease, changes in hair distribution, thickness of hair, changes in

skin condition and osteoporosis.

F4 93. (Amended) A method according to claim 92, wherein the disease, disorder or symptom is selected from the group consisting of hot flushes, sweating attacks, palpitations, sleep disorders, mood changes, nervousness, anxiety, urogenital atrophy, atrophy of the breasts and osteoporosis.

94. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 90, wherein the estrogen is selected from the group consisting of estradiol, estradiol sulfamates, estradiol valerate, estradiol benzoate, ethinyl estradiol, estrone, estriol, estriol succinate, conjugated estrogens and mixtures thereof.

95. (Amended) A method according to claim 94, wherein the estrogen is selected from the group consisting of estradiol, estradiol sulfamates, estradiol valerate, estradiol benzoate, estrone, and estrone sulfate and mixtures thereof.

F5 99. (Amended) A method according to claim 96, wherein the estradiol is in micronized form.

Add the following new claim:

F6 137. A method according to claim 90, wherein the estrogen is selected from the group consisting of estrone sulfate, 17 β -estradiol sulfate, 17 α -estradiol sulfate, equilin sulfate, 17 β -dihydroequilin sulfate, 17 α -dihydroequilin sulfate, equilenin sulfate, 17 β -dihydroequilenin sulfate, 17 α -dihydroequilenin sulfate and mixtures thereof.